

CONFIDENTIAL

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NSCIDs ON SECURITY OF INFORMATION AND
AVOIDANCE OF PUBLICITY

(NSCIDs 11 and 12)

1. Problem: To recommend to the NSC what action it should take respecting NSCID No. 12, which is classified "Restricted," now an unauthorized classification under Executive Order 10501, effective 15 December 1953.

2. Facts Bearing on the Problem:

a. NSCID-12 (and its accompanying letter to the heads of Executive Department and Establishments*) were developed by the IAC pursuant to recommendation No. 7 of NSC-50, as was NSCID-11.

b. Proposed NSCID-12 was transmitted to the NSC by DCI memorandum of 16 August 1949, which stated in part: "It is further suggested, with the unanimous concurrence of the IAC, that this NSCID if issued should be declassified to 'Restricted.'"

3. Discussion: The NSC Secretariat, recognizing the desirability, in the light of E.O. 10501, of reexamining NSC intelligence directives classified "Restricted" has asked CIA's recommendation as to NSCID-12, the only such directive so classified. Classification recommendations are limited to suggesting an upgrading to "Confidential" or a downgrading to unclassified. The rescission

*The January 6, 1950 letter from Executive Secretary, NSC, was originally classified "Restricted." In the book assembled for the incoming administration as part of "Project Victor" it was reprinted as unclassified. It thus now appears in the Compilation of Intelligence Directives as unclassified. Whether or not it has ever officially been declassified, it now should be, regardless of action taken respecting NSCID-12.

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of NSCID-12 and revision of NSCID-11 to include the material in NSCID-12 is a possible alternative.

4. Conclusions:

a. The category "Confidential" by E.O. 10501, is authorized "only for defense information or material, the unauthorized disclosure of which could be prejudicial to the defense interest of the nation." NSCID-12 is not such defense information or material. It is rather instructional matter of a general policy type, comparable to the introductory considerations in E.O. 10501. Therefore, if retained, NSCID-12 should be unclassified.

b. NSCIDs 11 and 12 were originally incorporated in one draft proposed directive. Separate treatment of these related matters was ultimately proposed because of a belief that NSC-50 required separate directives on these subjects. In fact, NSCID-12 is but an extension of NSCID-11, as the January 6, 1950 letter to Department heads is an extension of NSCID-12. Accordingly, it would be feasible to rescind NSCID-12 and concurrently revise NSCID-11 (Secret) by adding, as paragraphs 5 and 6, paragraphs 1 and 3 of NSCID-12.

5. Recommendation: That the DCI, with IAC concurrence, recommend to the NSC the rescission of NSCID-12 and revision of NSCID-11 to incorporate pertinent material from NSCID-12.

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